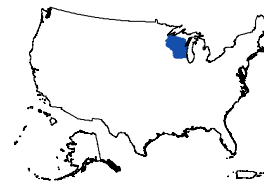


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Dick Ryan grew up on a traditional farm with steep fields and the hectic tempo of a dairy operation. By converting to a management intensive grazing system, he not only changed the farm operation, but also improved its economic viability, made the farm environmentally sound, and drastically changed his lifestyle. One program that helped in this conversion is EQIP.

With cost-share assistance from EQIP, Ryan installed fencing and a watering system, including a well, pipeline, troughs, and a pressure pump. With technical assistance from NRCS, he also developed a grazing plan and a nutrient management plan. By converting steep cropland to managed grazing, gully erosion and cropland runoff are eliminated.

Ryan now enjoys a calmer lifestyle, without the worries of cropping, expensive equipment, and the labor and the pace of traditional cropping operations.

Wisconsin Summary

Overview

Over 450 landowners applied for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance in FY 2000. Nearly 300 of those applicants entered into contracts. Total funding in Wisconsin for FY 2000 was \$3,239,000. Of this amount, \$292,300 was set aside for educational assistance to producers through 18 separate educational projects. Two new priority areas were established in northern Wisconsin, working with tribal producers.

Accomplishments

Two practices, nutrient management and prescribed grazing, received emphasis through the statewide program in FY 2000. These two low-cost practices help to address livestock related issues. Prescribed grazing is becoming increasingly important to producers as they strive to maintain economic viability in the face of low commodity prices.

Outlook

The signup for EQIP is down somewhat from FY 1997 and FY 1998, as funding has decreased. Wisconsin has found it necessary to limit practices offered under the statewide concerns because of the limited amount of funds available. With additional funding, the statewide concerns could offer additional practices, and interest would increase accordingly.

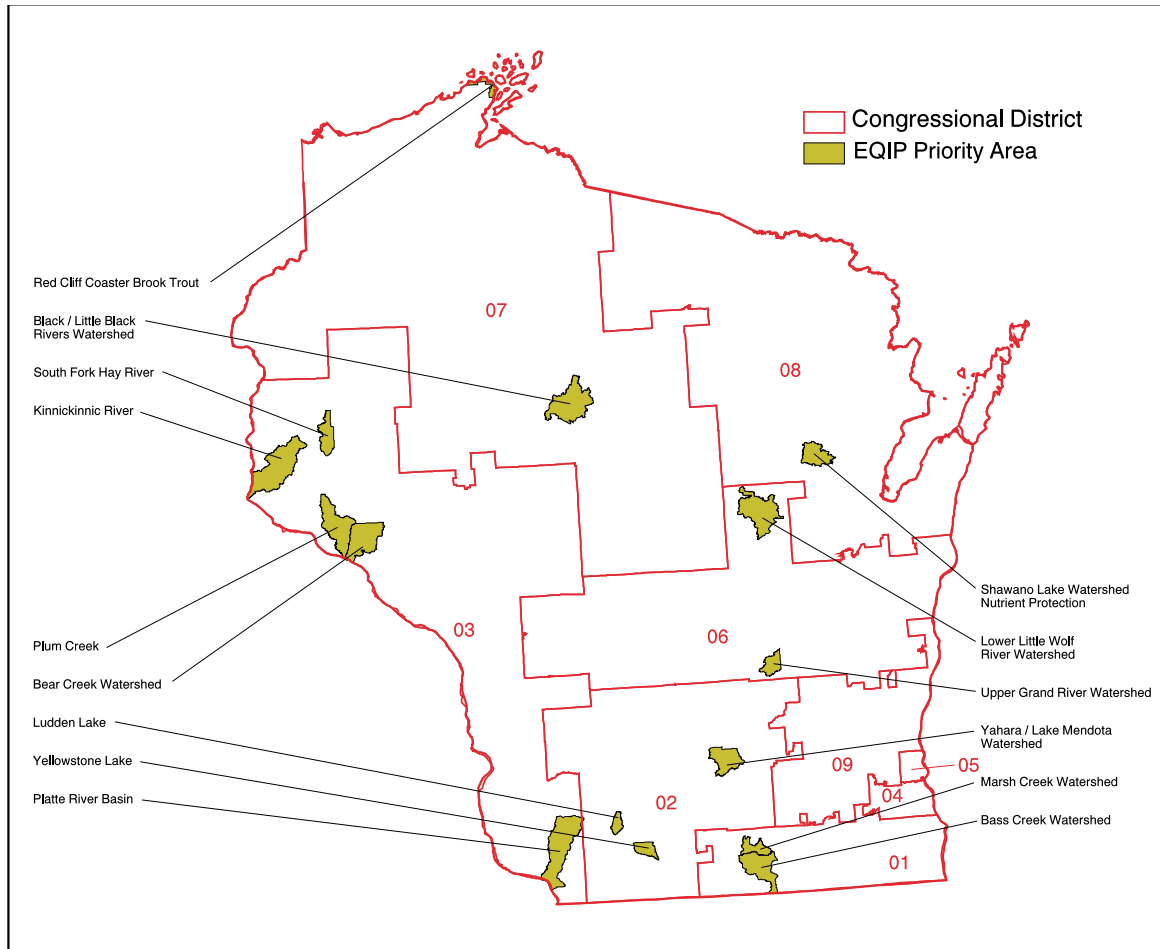
State Contact

Don A. Baloun, Assistant State Conservationist, (608) 276-8732, ext. 252

Dick Ryan, seated on 4-wheeler, talks with Brian Pillsbury, grazing specialist, Wisconsin



Wisconsin EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Wisconsin EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$287,091	133	\$2,858,528	622
District 1	370,264	16	1,061,820	74
District 2	325,924	41	2,156,618	284
District 3	1,145,558	110	3,892,570	431
District 6	259,229	39	1,255,481	269
District 7	258,029	20	1,252,459	142
District 8	3,253	3	753,405	63
State Totals	\$2,649,348	362	\$13,230,881	1,885

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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